

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 149622

64

ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 EB-05 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 INR-10 RSC-01 /040 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:SWARD:MF

7/30/73 EXT 20791

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN

EB/OCA/REP:LAKLIEFORTH

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R 302159Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149622

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MASS, LE, US

SUBJ: SWIFT PATROL BOATS FOR LEBANESE

1. COMMERCE SENDING THROUGH ITS OWN CHANNELS CABLE ASKING EMBASSY TO GIVE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO GROUP FROM SWIFT SHIPS INCORPORATED WHICH WILL BE VISITING LEBANON IN EFFORT TO SELL GOL THREE 120 FEET PATROL BOATS. SWIFT REPORTEDLY BELIEVES IT HAS GOOD CHANCE OF MAKING SALE WHICH COULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT DOLLARS FIVE MILLION. WE REALIZE THIS IS SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY AND DO NOT WISH TO IMPOSE ANY OBSTACLE TO AMERICAN FIRMS GAINING CONTRACT ESPECIALLY SINCE SWIFT APPARENTLY HAS STRONG COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN FIRMS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT LEBANESE HAVE OFFER BY USG TO PROVIDE TWO 92 FOOT REHABILITATED VESSELS FOR ABOUT DOLLARS TWENTY THOUSAND EACH, WE FIND IT PUZZLING THAT GOL SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN COMMERCIAL PURCHASE OF ONLY SLIGHTLY LARGER VESSELS AT SO MUCH HIGHER PRICE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT EMBASSY CAN SHED ON MATTER. ROGERS

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